

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 remain pending in the present application. The claims have not been amended in response to the Office Action.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 6 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent (2003-74992). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. JP 2003-74992 is an unexamined JP patent application publication that was published in Japan on March 12, 2003. The present application was filed in the U.S. on July 15, 2003. Thus, Applicants believe that JP 2003-74992 is not available as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.


While not being available as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), JP 2003-74992 may be available as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). The present application was filed in the U.S. on July 15, 2003 claiming priority of Japanese patent application 2002-206552 which was filed in Japan on July 16, 2002. Thus, the published date for JP 2003-74992 (March 12, 2003) is later than the Japanese priority date (July 16, 2002) of the present application. Enclosed is a verified English translation of the priority application (JP 2002-206552) of the present application. This English translation perfects the claim to priority for the present invention to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) using JP 2003-74992. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 7, 2004

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